

want to express my gratitude to all employers who have demonstrated support for this national crisis by swiftly releasing your valuable employees for military service. It is equally gratifying to see how you are welcoming back these returning warriors and reinstating them in their jobs. During the period of mobilization, many of you did more than was required by law by voluntarily offering continued benefits, pay differentials, and additional, creative forms of family support which made the period of separation so much easier to bear. I know of no other time in our nation's history when so many employers have voluntarily offered this level of support and benefits.

I recognize that these generous actions have not been without sacrifice. Each of you has earned the deepest appreciation of this Department and the United States Government for your unswerving support of our nation's military. Without this continued support, we could not maintain a strong military or sustain the current effort to overcome the international terrorist threat directed at our country, our citizens, and all who love freedom.

You have my deepest thanks. Your direct contributions and support are another illustration of America's greatness as a nation.

Sincerely,

DONALD RUMSFELD,
Secretary of Defense.

DEDICATED TO THE "COWBELLES"

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Ramona Snow, of Bakersfield, California. Ramona has been designated the Kern County "Cattlegirl of the Year" by Kern County Cattlemen and Cattlegirl Associations.

Ramona was born into a family of nine siblings and attended schools in Bakersfield until her senior year in high school when she transferred to Ventura. Shortly thereafter the family returned to Bakersfield, Ramona married Robert Snow, and began her life as a cattlegirl.

She became adept at pulling calves and doctoring ailing stock, as well as everyday ranch chores. Between raising her four children and ranch chores, Ramona found time to become active in 4-H as a sewing and cooking leader. In 1964 Ramona was asked to become a member of CowBelles, which led to a long and active career within what is now known as the Cattlegirls' Association.

Upon joining, Ramona became highly involved and chaired many committees. Such committees included, "Beef for Father's Day," and "Beef for Mother's Day." Ramona served as Vice President in 1976 and was elected President the following year. She was elected as President again in 1991.

Mrs. Snow has been an inventive member of CowBelles. She came up with the idea of a children's cookbook to be handed out at the Kern County Museum. Ramona was responsible for prize winning fair booths including the "Best Dressed Table" that promoted beef at the Kern County Fair for over 30 years. In the 1950s the CowBelles started awarding leather halters and now silver buckles to the winners of the Reserve Champion Steers at the Fair. Ramona designs these buckles each year so

they are always different. While Ramona was Vice President she introduced the idea of a Beef Cook-Off and with the help of fellow members the Cook-Off was held in Kern County that year.

Ramona's efforts have been exhaustive. Throughout her tenure as a member and officer of the Cattlegirls' Association she has been instrumental in nearly every aspect of the organization. This award is reflective of her dedication.

IWG 2-YEAR EXTENSION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I, along with 12 of my bipartisan colleagues, including Chairmen DAVIS and HOEKSTRA and Ranking Members WAXMAN, HARMAN, and CONYERS, introduce a bill that will extend the term of the Nazi War Crimes Interagency Working Group by 2 years. This is the companion bill of S. 384, a bill introduced by Senator DEWINE and passed in the Senate today. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud of the history and the impact of this legislation. I would like to thank Senator DEWINE and his staff for their tireless work and for the energy they have put forth to ensure that we know as much as we can about our Government's past involvement with Nazi War criminals.

In 1998, Congress passed the Nazi War Crimes Disclosure Act, a law that was enacted to explain the relationship between the U.S. Government and former Nazis. The act required the release of all previously classified information on the topic to the Interagency Working Group on Nazi War Crimes, IWG. The documents provided thus far to the IWG have revealed that there was a closer relationship between the U.S. Government and Nazi war criminals than previously known, a revelation that is crucial to the understanding of history. This significant knowledge would not have been possible without the cooperation of many agencies including the Department of Justice, Department of Defense, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Until recently, the CIA had not complied with the law and did not release the documents needed to complete the IWG's task, as defined by law. Fortunately, after discussions with Senator DEWINE and myself and under the leadership of Director Porter Goss, the CIA agreed to release the requisite documents. With the term of the IWG set to expire at the end of March 2005, we are now at a critical juncture.

This bill is simple. It extends the term of the IWG so that it can complete its work, write a comprehensive report, and send it to Congress. We hope to move this quickly in the House, as they did in the Senate, to avoid a lapse in this important work. History, and the memory of the millions who perished in the Holocaust, deserve nothing less than full disclosure.

CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH BIRTHDAY OF CONGRESSMAN LOUIS STOKES

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of a living legend here in the United States Congress and a man who is revered and respected throughout this country, my predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes.

Born February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, Louis Stokes was educated in the Cleveland Public Schools, graduating from Central High School. He went on to serve honorably in the United States Army during the Second World War. After three years of service he returned to Cleveland where he attended Western Reserve University and later earned his Doctor of Laws Degree from Cleveland Marshall Law School in 1953.

On November 6, 1968, Louis Stokes was elected to the United States Congress, becoming the first African American member of Congress from the State of Ohio. He served 15 consecutive terms in the U.S. House of Representatives, ranking 11th overall in House seniority. Louis Stokes played a pivotal role in the quest for civil rights, equality and social and economic justice throughout his tenure in the United States Congress. He served on numerous committees throughout his tenure including the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the Ethics Committee, and the House Intelligence Committee.

He was the dean of the Ohio Congressional Delegation and a founding member of the Congressional Black Caucus. His work in the area of health led to his appointment as a member of the Pepper Commission on Comprehensive Health Care, and he was the founder and chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Health Braintrust. His resume in its entirety is too lengthy to be recorded in this resolution as it is adequately recorded in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

On behalf of the people of the 11th Congressional District, I join with his wife Jay, children, Shelley, Angela, Louis and Lori, grandchildren, family and friends in wishing Congressman Louis Stokes a very happy and blessed 80th birthday. You have been a trailblazer for so many who have followed in your footsteps. I thank you for your continued support and guidance throughout my career. May you have many, many more.

DEDICATED RANCHER

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 16, 2005

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Fred David Lavers II, of Glennville, California. Mr. Lavers is being recognized by the Kern County Cattlemen and Cattlegirls Association as the "Cattlegirl of the Year."

Born in Bakersfield, Mr. Lavers has lived on the ranch at Glennville nearly his whole life.